

Message Text

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TAGS: FAO, OCON

SUBJECT: FAO COUNCIL CONSIDERATION OF FAO MEETING SCHEDULE

1. FAO COUNCIL IS CONSIDERING THE SCHEDULING OF SOME OF ITS MAIN COMMITTEES. AT PRESENT TIME APRIL 1977 IS VERY FULL AND INCLUDES PER OUR EARLIER SUGGESTION THE CCP. HOWEVER, JANTON, FRENCH CCP CHAIRMAN, IS OPPOSED TO SPRING MEETING OF CCP AND IS SEEKING SUPPORT FOR AN OCTOBER MEETING. HE WOULD SWITCH PRESENTLY SCHEDULED FAO COMMITTEE ON WORLD FOOD SECURITY MEETING FROM OCTOBER TO SPRING 1977.

2. JANTON ARGUES: FIRST THAT CROP ESTIMATES WILL BE BETTER KNOWN IN OCTOBER THEN IN APRIL AND THIS IS ONE SURE AGENDA ITEM FOR CCP. SECOND, THE ROLE OF THE FAO IN THE UNCTAD IV COMMODITY WORK WHICH WILL BE ANOTHER AGENDA ITEM, WILL STILL NOT BE CLEAR. ONLY A FEW PREPARATORY MEETINGS ON CORE COMMODITIES WILL HAVE BEEN HELD BY APRIL AND ISSUES WILL NOT BE CLEAR ENOUGH FOR THE CCP TO EXPRESS ITSELF. FURTHER, JANTON ARGUES THAT FAO/UNCTAD ISSUES ARE BASICALLY POLITICAL IN NATURE AND THUS NOT REALLY SUSCEPTIBLE TO CCP RESOLUTION. RATHER THE COUNCIL OR CONFERENCE SHOULD TREAT THIS ISSUE. FINALLY, JANTON ARGUES HE DOESN'T WANT TO INVOLVE THE CCP IN THE UNCTAD COMMODITY PROGRAM FAILURE.

3. JANTON'S SUGGESTED DELAY HAS MET OPPOSITION FROM BRAZILIAN DELEGATE BRITO WHO HOPES TO BECOME THE NEXT CCP CHAIRMAN, AND THE

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UK. CANADA WANTS THE COMMITTEE ON WORLD FOOD SECURITY (CWFS) TO

TAKE PLACE IN APRIL IN ORDER TO PRE-EMPTY THE WORLD FOOD COUNCIL WHICH WILL PROBABLY ADDRESS THE SAME SUBJECT. CANADA WOULD PREFER TO HAVE BACK TO BACK MEETINGS OF CCP AND CWFS. HOWEVER, LEEKS, JUST ANNOUNCED DIRECTOR OF COMMODITY DIVISION, DOES NOT BELIEVE HIS DIVISION CAN PROPERLY SERVICE BOTH MEETINGS IN APRIL (HIS DIVISION IS RESPONSIBLE FOR BOTH).

4. DELEGATION INTENDS TO SUPPORT SPRING MEETING OF CCP AND IF POSSIBLE BACK TO BACK MEETINGS OF CCP AND CWFS. WE DO NOT SEE ANY REAL GAIN BY DELAYING CCP TO OCTOBER AND BELIEVE 2 YEARS BETWEEN MEETINGS WOULD HURT CCP. VOLPE

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